



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Columbus City Attorney's Office Provides Support to Domestic Violence Victims Despite Federal Cuts to Programming

Victims Need More Help Than Ever Due to COVID-19

COLUMBUS -- Amid last week's announcement of federal budget cuts to Ohio's share of the Victims of Crime Act, Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein reminds Columbus residents of additional resources that his office provides free of charge to victims of domestic violence and their families.

The Columbus City Attorney's Office Domestic Violence and Stalking Unit **provides education, support, counseling and crisis intervention to victims of domestic violence and facilitates prosecution. Specially trained professionals are available** Monday through Friday to offer advocacy and safety planning to victims. Anyone in need can call (614-645-6232), text (614-653-8075) or meet in person with a victim advocate from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

"Domestic violence didn't stop – if anything it became worse – during COVID-19 when people stayed home more often," said Klein. "It's disgraceful that the federal government doesn't recognize this and is making it even more difficult for victims to get help. We want to make sure that Columbus residents know we are here to discretely help them at no charge."

The City Attorney's Office is working closely with other local resources including CHOICES for Domestic Violence, The Center for Family Safety and Healing, the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office, the local courts and law enforcement to bring even more resources to our community.

"Not feeling safe in your own home is being deprived of a basic need," added Klein. "Our city can't be at our best until we take an aggressive stance on ending domestic violence."

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